

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NO. 2013101111

ORDER GRANTING SECOND  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND  
SETTING MEDIATION, PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE AND HEARING

On January 20, 2014, the parties filed a second request to continue all dates in this matter. The reason given was that Student recently retained an attorney, and the parties would like to attend mediation with the attorney present.

A due process hearing must be conducted and a decision rendered within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances; substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice; a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

OAH has reviewed the request for good cause and considered all relevant facts and circumstances. The request is:

☒ Granted. All dates are vacated. However, further continuances are not contemplated given the age of this matter, as the hearing dates granted in this order allow for more than ample settlement discussion time and hearing preparation. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation:	February 26, 2014 at 9:30 AM
Prehearing Conference:	April 4, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Due Process Hearing:	April 15-17, 2014 at 9:30 AM first day, 9:00 AM other days, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 21, 2014

/s/

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RICHARD T. BREEN  
Presiding Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings